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## Jewish Diaspora and Establishment of Israel as a Nation

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Though Jews have their own religion, there is no doubt that they were inseparable part of Christianity on its birth and were persecuted severally and there were exodus of Jews, once from Mesopotamia then from Egypt and then from Europe and other countries to converge in modern time in their original land, the 'Promised land' of Israel.

“The beginning of the patriarchal narrative, which also marks the actual start of the Biblical process, assumes extraordinary significance. It takes up, with seeming abruptness, Abraham's departure from Mesopotemia for a destination and on a mission that will be disclosed in due time (Gen.12) . . . and the mission is duly solemnised by God's covenant with Abraham. The

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destination, accordingly, becomes the Promised Land . . . . It was honoured by a long line of later Biblical writers, all of whom saw in God's covenant with Abraham the real foundation of the spiritual history of Israel . . . . It is the key event that set the Biblical process in motion.

“. . . . In matters of law and government in particular, Israel was an apt and faithful, if not always conscious, disciple of Mesopotemian civilization. But the concurrent religious beliefs and practices of the Land between the rivers lacked similar appeal. Israel, for one rejected them outright. Now this rejection was natural enough in the prophetic age. For by then Israel's course had long been set, and the spiritual content of Mesopotemia could be appraised on the evidence of uncounted countries . . . the stated reason for the Patriarch's journey to the Promised Land agree so closely with the religious conditions in Mesopotemia during the patriarchal period-conditions that we have begun to understand only recently . . . .

“The migration was a resolute protest. For all her notable social strides, Mesopotemia was to the Patriarchs a good place to leave behind. The protest could have been aimed only at the spiritual content of the native civilization. And without such a protest Biblical process could not have commenced.

“Arrival in Canaan brought the Patriarchs into contact with the world view of the Egyptians. Now if the Mesopotemian way, with its congenial feature of government and society, was to Israel's forefathers an urgent reason for departure, then the Egyptian way, with its deified king and unrelieved totalitarianism, could scarcely be viewed as anything short of abomination. For the seed that had been planted by Abraham had not been left untended. There was time for it to strike root in the course of intervening centuries. The original motivating ideal now had a cherished tradition behind it. It also had a worthy spokesman to reaffirm it. Just as the protest

against Mesopotamia had been spearheaded by a native of that country, someone who could speak from direct experience, so too the implacable opposition to Egypt came from a native of the Pharaonic land. In fact, who could have better reason to rebel against the divine pretensions of the royal house of Egypt than a man who had been brought up as a member of the royal household? In this respect, tradition gains much in credibility in its account of Moses's youth . . . the aspect of Moses . . . is not so much that of legislator or religious leader as that of liberator, but a liberator from much more than mere physical oppression. . . .

“Migration under Abraham emerges thus as the answer of Israel's founders to the religious solution of Mesopotamia, and liberation under Moses marks Israel's rejection of the Egyptian world view. . . . Together they constitute Israel's declaration of spiritual independence and the true foundation of the Biblical experience. . . .

“If it had not been for their prior labors, Israel might not have fared so well in going on from where they left off, or in starting afresh where they had failed. The very strides that had been made in material, societal and intellectual fields helped to emphasize the existing spiritual vacuum. Once accepted, the mission was pursued with unparalleled dedication and single-mindedness of purpose. The all but universal acceptance of the results is a true measure of the success attained.” (Speiser /345-347)

The Israelite Exodus from Egypt, recounted in the Bible, tells of the oppression of the Israelites as slaves in Egypt, their flight from the country led by Moses and their journey through the wilderness before eventually settling in the "Promised Land". The majority view among scholars is that the Exodus must have taken place by at least in the 13th Century BC.

The Bible tells us that Moses belonged to a large group of Semitic settlers whose ancestors had arrived in Egypt from the land of Canaan. This rings very true, for archaeological evidence

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shows that such groups of people from Canaan were settling in parts of the Eastern Delta from around the middle of Egypt's 12th Dynasty.

It should also be noted that the route chosen by the escaping Israelites, from Piramesse to Tjeku (biblical Succoth: Exodus 12:37) and eastwards, was precisely the same that was used by two escaping slaves of the late 13th century BC, as reported in Papyrus Anastasi V.

### **Another Scar in the History of the Jews**

“Adolf Hitler wrote the *Mein Kampf* in 1924. It was a deeply anti-semitic race based ideological script. 10 million copies of it were sold during the life time of the Fuehrer. As the book so the deeds of Hitler; horrible pogrom of Jews proved shocking throughout the world. The book is certainly controversial. The copyright of the book rests with the Bavaria State which banned its further production. But their copyright expires by the end of the next year, 2015 after which anybody may publish the book. There are misgivings in the minds of many in Germany about the real issue of the book. Some Jews in Germany think that the hatred against them still persists somewhere in the heart of some people and a leader of the Frankfurt based 7000 strong Jewish community says, “We should have already had a critical edition of *Mein Kampf*.”<sup>1</sup>

The Institute of Contemporary History, Munich, has been planning to publish a critical edition of the 700 pages book.

### **The Land of their final Settlement and the People**

In the nineteenth century, following a trend that emerged earlier in Europe, people around the world began to identify themselves as nations and to demand national rights, foremost the right to self-rule in a state of their own (self-determination and sovereignty). Jews and Palestinians both started to develop a national consciousness and mobilized to achieve national goals.

Because Jews were spread across the world (in diaspora) the Jewish national movement, or Zionist trend, sought to identify a place where Jews could come together through the process of immigration and settlement. Palestine seemed the logical and optimal place because it was the site of Jewish origin after the two ancient exoduses. The Zionist movement began in 1882 with the first wave of European Jewish immigration to Palestine.

On November 29, 1947, the UN General Assembly voted to partition Palestine into two states, one Jewish and the other Arab. Publicly, the Zionist leadership accepted the UN partition plan, although they hoped somehow to expand the borders assigned to the Jewish State. The Palestinian Arabs and the surrounding Arab states rejected the UN plan and regarded the General Assembly vote as an international betrayal.

The conflict between Palestinian Arabs and the Zionist or the Jews is a modern phenomenon. The two groups have different religions. Palestinians include Muslims, Christians and Druze and Jews have Judaism. Religious differences between the two groups seem the main cause of the strife besides the conflict over land. This became a racial conflict between the nations; Arabian and Israelite. From the end of World War I until 1948, the area that both groups claimed was known internationally as Palestine. That same name was also used to designate a less well-defined "Holy Land" by the three monotheistic religions. Following the war of 1948–1949 this land was divided into three parts: the State of Israel, the West Bank (of the Jordan River) and the Gaza Strip.

### **Israel and the 1948 War**

"In May 1948, Israel became an independent state after Israel was recognised by the United Nations as a country in its own right within the Middle East.

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“Israel was attacked on the same day it gained its independence – May 14th. The armies of Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Iraq attacked Israel. With such a combined force attacking Israel, few would have given the new country any chance of survival. At the height of the 1948 War, Israel’s army numbered 100,000.

“Though the attack on Israel was a surprise one, Israel was surprisingly well equipped at a military level. The country had a navy and many in her army were experienced in combat as a result of World War Two. Israel had also bought three B-17 bombers of America in the black market. In July 1948 these were used to bomb the Egyptian capital, Cairo.

“The 1948 war which the Israelis referred to as the "War of Independence", claimed 6,000 Israeli lives – but this was only 1% of the nation’s population. The boost the victory gave to the Israelis was huge and put into perspective the 6,000 lives lost. Ironically, those nations that had attacked Israel in May 1948, only lost slightly more men – 7,000. However, the damage to their morale was considerable.

“The Arab nations involved negotiated their own peace talks – a further sign that they were only united by their desire to attack Israel. Egypt signed a peace settlement in February 1949, and over the next few months Lebanon, Jordan and Syria did the same culminating in peace in July 1949. Iraq simply withdrew her forces but did not sign any peace settlement.

“As a result of their military victory, Israel was able to expand the territory given to the Israel by the United Nations. However, this could only be at the expense of the Arab population that lived in these areas. The scene was set for almost perpetual conflict between the Arab nations and Israel that culminated in the 1956, 1967 and 1973 wars.”<sup>2</sup>

Israeli forces captured Gaza and the Sinai Peninsula, but were forced to retreat to the armistice lines as a result of international pressure led by the US and the Soviet Union to avert further conflict in the Middle East. By the early 1960s, however, the region was becoming a hot spot of Cold War rivalry as the US and the Soviet Union were competing with each another for global power and influence. The Palestinian national movement emerged as a major actor after 1967 in the form of the political and military groups that captured the already formed Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). Yasser Arafat was PLO chairman from 1968 until his death in 2004. Israel regards Jerusalem as its “eternal capital.” Most of the international community considers East Jerusalem part of the occupied West Bank. Palestinians envision East Jerusalem as the capital of a future Palestinian state.

Despite U N Security Council resolution No.242 declaring such forceful occupation unacceptable, Israel’s occupation of Gaza continues to the present day because Israel continues to exercise “effective control” over this area; because the conflict that produced the occupation has not ended, because an occupying State cannot unilaterally (and without international/diplomatic agreement) transform the international status of occupied territory if that unilateral action terminates all manner of effective control. In addition, Israel continues to control the Palestinian Population Registry, which has the power and authority to define who is a Palestinian” and who is a resident of Gaza.

In the January 2006 elections for the Palestinian Legislative Council, Hamas won a majority of 77 out of 122 seats. On September 19, 2007 Israel declared that Gaza had become a “hostile territory.” With support from Egypt under President Husni Mubarak, Israel tightened its blockade of the Gaza Strip. A second reason is the split between Abbas and Hamas in the Palestinian body politic.

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Israel defines itself as a Jewish State and the state of the Jewish people. Arabs were not permitted to become full members of the Israeli trade union federation, the Histadrut, until 1965. About 40 percent of their lands were confiscated by the state and used for development projects that benefited Jews primarily or exclusively. All of Israel's governments have discriminated against the Arab population by allocating far fewer resources for education, health care, public works, municipal government and economic development to the Arab sector.

Apart from the continuous fight between the terrorist organisations and Israel the collaborators with Israel living within Gaza Strip are being treated very harshly by the terrorist groups. Executions in Gaza area, as reported by the New York Times on 22.8.2014, are part of the continuing orgy of killings. Latest position as given in NewYorkTimes, is,

“Collaboration has been considered a heinous crime in Palestinian society since before Israel became a state. During its seven-year rule of Gaza, Hamas vigorously prosecuted and occasionally lynched suspected spies to enforce loyalty. But rights groups that document such cases said the number had sharply fallen from the period from 1987 to 1994, when an estimated 1,000 people were executed as collaborators.”<sup>3</sup>

It is said that there are at least two dozens of tunnels from Gaza to Israel, some of which are 1.6 km in length, which Israel demands, are used by the Gaza based Islamist group Hamas to sneak into Israel through them to kill civilians and soldiers. “It's like a subway under Gaza, very simple but very professional,” said Lt. Colonel Azulai. (Times /30.7.14)

Israel finds them very baffling and wishes to detect and destroy all such hidden ways.

**The Racist Religious Expansion Programme continues to worry and plague the Nations**



Besides deaths the situation continues to plague the lives and property inside and outside Gaza strip till date. Whereas this religion based racial war continues between Palestinians and Israelites the religious expansionist movement of the Islamic group continues from their historic birth.

“Islamic State wants to recreate a medieval-style caliphate from the Mediterranean to the Gulf and Shi’ite Muslims to be heretics deserving death.” (Times / 4.7.14) Egypt and Saudi Arabia consider such people with plan for a Caliphate as terrorists deserving fitting treatment. People of autonomous Kurdistan region in Iraq differ with both Iraqi government and Jihadists.

“Meanwhile, Iraq-based United Nations Official Jacqueline Badcock said Jihadists have ordered all women aged 11 to 46 to undergo female genital mutilation. ‘It is fatwa for religious edict’ from ISIS, we learnt this this morning”, she said. (Times /15. 7. 2014)

In Iraq the militants are killing anybody and any group which do not join their marauding group to constitute world wide Caliphate. “It is revenge against those they consider apostates because they have not joined their caliphate.”

“ISIS calls itself simply the Islamic State and seeks to create a caliphate, or government for all the world’s Muslims. It considers all who do not share its fundamentalist beliefs, including many other Sunni Muslims, infidels. That ideology has proved to be particularly destructive in Iraq, home to a range of ethnic and religious groups, including the Yazidis, a tiny religious branch that reflects some elements of Sufism and ancient regional traditions.

“ISIS has not limited its attacks to minorities. On Saturday, the *Syrian Observatory for Human Rights* said the group had executed more than 700 members of the Shuayat tribe, most of them civilians, in the province of Deir al-Zour, along the Iraqi border. The observatory said that

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hundreds more people were missing. While the toll could not be independently verified, other activists have also reported such killings.”<sup>4</sup>

The happenings inside Syria too are not rejoicable:

“A new power struggle has emerged within the Syrian rebellion after Al-Qaeda announced that it aims to create an Islamic ‘emirate’ to compete with rival jihadist group, the Islamic State (IS), which is also known as the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) . . . . ISIS and Al-Nusra, which both have thousands of fighters, are rooted in Al-Qaeda in Iraq, but the latter has since split with the global terror network.” (Times / 26.7.2014)

“GENEVA — Public executions, often beheadings, are becoming a “common spectacle” in parts of Syria controlled by Islamic militants, and government forces there continue to massacre and torture civilians, a United Nations panel said in a report released on Wednesday.”<sup>5</sup>

### **A Sensitive European’s Reaction about this Race War**

From a speech of Geert Wilders, Chairman, Party for Freedom the Netherlands, at the Four Seasons in New York on 25.9.2008 we come to know that,

“Jews are fleeing France in record numbers, on the run for the worst wave of anti-Semitism since World War II. French is now commonly spoken on the streets of Tel Aviv and Netanya, Israel . . . I could go on forever with stories like this. Stories about Islamization. One-third of French Muslims do not object to suicide attacks. The British Centre for Social Cohesion reported that one-third of British Muslim students are in favor of a worldwide caliphate . . . .

“I support Israel. First, because it is the Jewish homeland after two thousand years of exile up to and including Auschwitz; second because it is a democracy, and third because Israel is our

first line of defense.

“This tiny country is situated on the fault line of jihad, frustrating Islam's territorial advance. Israel is facing the front lines of jihad . . . Israel is simply in the way. The same way West-Berlin was during the Cold War. . . .

“So-called journalists volunteer to label any and all critics of Islamization as a 'right-wing extremists' or 'racists'. In my country, the Netherlands , 60 percent of the population now sees the mass immigration of Muslims as the number one policy mistake since World War II. And another 60 percent sees Islam as the biggest threat.”<sup>6</sup>

### **The Present Threat**

There is no doubt that the religious plan of crowding the whole earth under the control of a group of people to impose its so called social orders on others has never ended though the group, in the absence of a cohesive higher or spiritual idea behind, has fissured into innumerable violent butchers. Killing is going on inside and outside of it too; a real threat now as it was before. But it should be remembered that the world has technologically and scientifically progressed enormously, though not in higher spiritual sense, from the age when marauding killers with swords in hand on horse back entered the land of the peaceful, unaware people and won their country, whether to make it colony or to convert the residents.

### **And the Possible Solution of the Problem**

If we consider in the right perspective of the Jewish people it must be admitted that a body of people who have been persecuted and became members of diaspora from the beginning of their known history need to be settled peacefully somewhere on earth and for the Jewish people it is the place which to them has been the ‘Promised Land’ from the hoary past. As people they have shown extraordinary brain capacity, prowess and power of resilience to claim and deserve their

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settlement where they are now. It may not be feasible to confine them exclusively to the place assigned to them in the modern time by the world body without a common and mutual agreement. Such occupied places like Gaza Strip, West Bank and such a holy place of their aspiration as Jerusalem have become dangerous, being inhabited by others too, as we see that violent human eruptions are often witnessed among men in the region.

Though a temporary ceasefire is in the offing, this has happened many times. Permanent peace and harmony among the people in the region without any attrition is a must for a true religious and higher type of spiritual life. It should be granted to a people who have been persecuted for thousands of years. At the same time it must also be seen that the people of the other religions, other communities who happen to live in Israel should be given all facilities equally with the other citizens of the country as are possible internationally subject to particular rules and regulations of the country specific without any discrimination. This may really be achieved by the rational people the world over who matter and who value life higher than daily bickerings and attrition, without an iota of poisonous dream of bringing the world under any group's ill-conceived domain.

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**About the Author-** Aju Mukhopadhyay, the poet, critic and biographer, is a bilingual writer of fictions and essays. He has done some important translations on his way. He has authored 12 books in Bangla and 16 in English. His works have been recognized with awards by such bodies as The Writers Bureau, Manchester, Poets International, Bangalore, International Library of Poetry, USA, International Poets Academy, Chennai, (Excellence in World Poetry Award, 2009), Lucidity Poetry Journal, Sugar Land, USA and others. His poems topped the list of some e-zines and websites like asianamericanpoetry and poetsindia. Earlier he edited three little magazines in Bengali. He is in the editorial board of some Indian English Literary magazines. He has edited the American E-zine, <http://twenty20 Journal.com> – summer issue 3, 2011. He is a writer of wildlife and Nature including animals. Conservation of Nature environment is the watchword of his life